GLOBAL EMERGENCY FUND FOR RAPID RESPONSE (GEF)

DRAF REPORT 2017

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Members of the Global Emergency Fund (GEF) Taskforce

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I- Overview of the Global Emergency Fund

ICTs are an important component of the relief efforts when natural or humanitarian disasters occur. It is therefore crucial to find funding for projects for emergency communications. It is in this context that the SSDM Advisory Board decided to set up a taskforce to work on and come up with a Global Emergency Fund in support of the SSDM initiative.

- Section 1 of this report will identify key stakeholders and their respective roles and also include a gap analysis of current funding methods and proposals for concrete actions.
- Section 2 will explore innovative funding models and research best practices for allocating resources to SSDM
- Section 3 (to be drafted) will present a proposal for the fund, as well as a proposal for a supporting communication plan.

1.1 Key Stakeholders

1.1.1 International and Inter-Governmental Organizations.

❑ **ITU**, with a membership of 193 countries and almost 800 private-sector entities and academic institutions, is at the very heart of ICT sector

❑ **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**, a UN institutions responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure coherent response to emergencies.

The OCHA relies on its Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to enable more timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. CERF is funded by voluntary contributions (more than USD3.5 billion raised from UN members states and observers, private donors, etc…).

❑ **United nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),** a catalyst to consolidate ties between nations and societies to raise awareness over keys issues that impact development and human dignity

❑ **World Food Programme (WFP),** currently leading the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), responsible for coordinating inter-agency relief efforts in terms of IT and telecoms in emergencies. The WFP's Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) is its operational arm that is always at the frontline of any emergency situations that need IT support.

❑ **The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR),** that plays a major role in disaster preparedness and response, through capacity building initiatives and inter-agency cooperation

1.1 Key Stakeholders (Cont'd)

❑ **The Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation – Development Cooperation Directorate (OECD-DAC),** that relies on the High-Level Advisory Board on the Financial Management of Catastrophic Risks Insurance and the OECD Insurance and Private Pensions Committee to support their disasters relief efforts.

1.1.2. International Funding Organizations

❑ **The World Bank**, major source of financial (low-interest loans and grants) and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank also addresses Disaster Risk management (DRM) through its Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) – a global partnership of 41 countries and seven international organizations.

❑ **The International Finance Corporation (IFC),** a member of World Bank group, focused exclusively on private sector in developing countries.

❑ **The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, the largest private foundation in the world. The Foundation has an Emergency Response program.

❑ **The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC),** the world's largest volunteer network (reaching over 150 million people in 190 National Societies through the work of over 17 million volunteers), that provide financial support to Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies through its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

1.1 Key Stakeholders (Cont'd)

1.1.3. Donor Countries and Regional Organizations

National and Regional Organizations that sponsor and fund humanitarian development activities can play crucial roles in SSDM partnerships. A small sample of those engaged in ICT4D/ICT4DM activities include:

- ❏ **The European Commission (EC),** that intervenes through its Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).
- ❏ **USA - The Unites States Agency for International Development (USAID),** the lead US Government agency to works to end extreme global poverty. Not only USAID funds disaster relief activities through its Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), but it also has multiple partnerships in ICT with parties, including: Intel Corp., Cisco, Microsoft, GVF, Nethope, etc..
- ❏ **Canada – The International Development Research Centre (IDRC).** IDRC have multiple investments in a wide variety of areas related to ICTs, including infrastructure, access, regulations, etc..
- ❏ **Luxembourg – Emergency.lu**. The government of Luxembourg's program Emergency.lu is a multi-layer disaster management platform. Emergency-lu collaborates with UN agencies to create solutions that take into account the existing communications infrastructures used in humanitarian operations.
- ❏ **United Kingdom – Department for International Development (DFID**)
- ❏ **Sweden – Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions (SPIDER)**. SPIDER is funded primarily by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).
- ❏ **Switzerland – Swiss Agency for Development**.

1.1.4. Private Sector

Private sector plays a critical role in ICT4D and ICT4DM partnerships, especially when they give in kind contributions to emergency response and relief operations. Below are just a few examples of how the satellite industry is involved in relief efforts:

- ❏ Eutelsat and 2016 Earthquake in Ecuador
- ❏ Intelsat and the 2015 Nepalese Earthquakes
- ❏ Thuraya and the 2013 Relief Efforts for Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines
- ❏ Inmarsat partnership with Team Rubicon
- ❏ SES partnership with Luxembourg Government for emergency.lu

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1.1. Key Stakeholders (End)

1.1.5 Receiving Countries

- ❏ ICT regulators need to include backup networks and equipment in their planning strategies
- ❏ During emergency situations that their regulatory environment is conducive to receiving aid

1.2. Gap Analysis

1.2.1. Coordination

- ❏ Many different resources for funding ICT4DM projects and emergency communications relief efforts
- ❏ Coordination between funding institutions could be more effective and the relief efforts more efficient
- ❏ One of the global networks of organizations in charge of coordinating ICT responses during emergencies is the Emergency telecommunications Cluster (ETC), chaired by the WFP. It is usually activated with the first 48 hours of an emergency situation. If the ETC is not activated, then it is nearly impossible for a coordinated effort to happen.
- ❏ In regard to satellite operators and in-kid contributions to emergency relief, coordination is assumed by ESOA and GVF, but there are chances that satellite capacity is made available on a best effort basis.

1.2. Gap Analysis (Cont'd)

1.2.2. Resource Allocation

❑ The emergency response funds allocated by the WB and the Gates Foundation are usually intended for a number of different emergency relief operations, including emergency communications. However, due to the scope of ICT deployments during emergency situations, it might be more efficient to get the funding sources like the World Bank and the Gates Foundation to fund ICT4DM projects directly.

❑ Inside the scope of emergency communications funding, there are two separate courses of action to consider, (a) funding for disaster relief pre-planning and (b) funding for the immediate aftermath of an emergency situation to help pay for the ground equipment.

❑ Important to take into account the kinds of resources that are deposited into the GEF (i.e. in-kind and monetary contributions). The GEF has to take into account these resources when defining the scope o operations.

❑ Take into account pre-existing infrastructure for emergency communications (i.e. Luxembourg – Emergency.lu.)

1.3. Concrete Actions

1.3.1. Financing Strategies

In previous SSDM reports, two financial strategies were identified:

Monetary Contributions

➤ Syndicated revolving loans and credit facilities. This could be one strategy for continuous funding of the GEF.

➤ Contributions or specific purposes

In Kind Contributions

➤ Satellite Capacity

➤ Ground Equipment

1.3. Concrete Actions (Cont'd)

1.3.2. Outreach to Potential Donors

➤ Run the preliminary model for the GEF through the identified potential donors

➤ Include these potential donors in the planning phases of the GEF to seek their inputs

1.3.3. Organization of the Global Emergency Fund

➤ "Global Platform for Recovery and Development (GPRD)", as proposed in past cycle SSDM report

➤ A few questions need to be answered to help define the scope of the GEF and pick the suitable model. These include:

a/- Scope of operation: will it be directed towards disaster preparedness and risk reduction, first response operations, restoration of telecommunications infrastructure and services, or all of these?

b/- Administration of the Fund: will there be a board of directing organizations or will the fund be organized like the ETC where one organization would take the lead?

c/- Beneficiaries: will these be national governments of humanitarian actors, or both?

d/- Donors: how can donate, and how much can the fund feasibly get in monetary and in kind contributions?

1.3. Concrete Actions (End)

1.3.4. Outreach to Beneficiaries

Appropriate strategies to reach out to beneficiaries will be addressed at a later stage in the report, but this needs to be in place and launched once the GEF has been defined and ready for deployment.

2. Funding Opportunities

2.1 Best Practices

2.1.1 Regional and International Agencies.

ESA

Regional and International Space Agencies are supporting ICT4D projects as long as they promote the use and development of new applications and satellite telecommunications services. ESA has in the past made specific agreements with international organizations, such as Unicef, and could be willing to do same with ITU to address SSDM ICT4D objectives.

ITU and ESA could work together to bring together stakeholders and users within the space industry and service provider organizations to develop end-to-end solutions for disaster relief together with the needed disaster preparedness and training demonstrations. Examples of these include:

❑ Satellite African e-Health Validation (SAHEL)

❑ Satellite Way for Education (SWAY4Edu2)

❑ Biological Light Fieldable Laboratory for Emergencies (B-Life)

UNITED NATIONS

❑ Assessed Contributions

❑ Voluntary Contributions

EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EU)

2. Funding Opportunities (Cont'd)

2.1.2 Private Sector Sponsorships – Crowdfunding

2.2. Partnership Opportunities

2.2.1 In-Kind Contributions.
2.2.2 Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)
2.2.3 Disaster Management and Sustainable Development Platform Proposal
2.2.4. Key drivers to Partnerships